



The Arlington Advocate

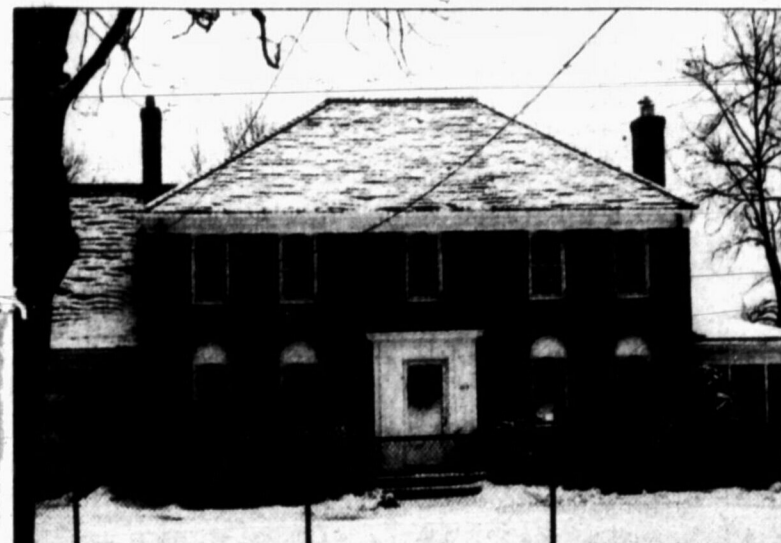


SERVING THE RESIDENTS OF ARLINGTON SINCE 1872

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Town has two million-dollar residential properties



#1 317 Mystic St. — \$1.045 million



#2 208 Pleasant St. — \$1.011 million

Parcels on Mystic, Pleasant streets have waterfront views

This is the first of a two-week series of articles reviewing the town's recent property revaluation.

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

The numbers, in aggregate, are shocking to many long-time residents, but to others it was expected.

Arlington's citizenry saw property value skyrocket as the result of the latest revaluation. The mood has been inquisitive, somewhat critical, but not contentious, said Town Assessor Robert Gree-

ley, who said he's fielded a moderate number of calls so far.

His office fielded two phone calls while Greeley spoke, and he only knew about those because someone came into the office to ask a question.

According to Greeley, "about 200" property owners have applied for abatements so far.

He said the last time the state updated exemption amounts was three years ago when, for example, an exemption for a veteran

■ SEE ASSESSORS, PAGE 14

Event remembers King, honors selflessness

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

The state of affordable housing in Massachusetts is not a dream, said keynote speaker and housing advocate Jack Cooper Monday night. It is a sad reality that Martin Luther King would not have tolerated.

It was a theme of estrangement that flavored the celebration at the 13th annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration held at the First Baptist Parish. It has also added spice to the lives of this year's recipients of the Outstanding Achievement awards, awarded each year to Arlingtonians who have contributed in the spirit of King's mission.

This year's winners were the congregation of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, who have offered their minister's residence and good will to a group of Sudanese refugees, and to Sister Winfred Behlen, who not only started the organization Friends of Refugees to help Vietnamese "boat people," but raised two Vietnamese girls herself.

That theme also rose in the form of Cooper, a tenants rights advocate for Massachusetts public housing recipients and the night's main speaker.

The murdered civil right leader would have celebrated his 72nd birthday. And while every year radio broadcasts excerpts of King's now "I Have a Dream" speech and choirs everywhere sing "We Shall Overcome" (as they did here), Arlington's celebration delved into the political philosophy of King a bit differently, pushing for help and celebrating help given to all colors of the disenfranchised.

Collins butters his bread with this issue. He is the executive director of the Massachusetts Union of Public Housing Tenants. That agency works to protect the rights of the roughly 85,000 public housing tenants in the state. He also serves on the U.S. Office of Housing and Urban Development's Rule Making Committee for Public Housing Operating Subsidy, and keeps his background in human services



Pearl Morrison and Martiza Dolich of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, one of the recipients of the Outstanding Achievement awards, share a laugh during Monday's Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration at First Baptist Church.

flourishing as a founding committee member of the Massachusetts Sport-A-Rama, a program that supports summer sports for public housing youth.

While Collins asked the audience to look to King for inspiration, much of his politics in his speech were local.

"The problem in Arlington are the rent requirements of the private sector," Cooper said. Statis-

tics, he said, reveal that a family with a housing voucher cannot live in Arlington because the average apartment costs more than a voucher allows a family to spend.

"There are no options for people in Boston and the greater Boston area, so these families have to move to the 495 belt, maybe Worcester. New Bedford, Fall River, you've got options,"

he said. "Lowell, Lawrence, you've got options. Springfield, you've definitely got options. But..."

His words of criticism turned to gentle warnings.

"Arlington used to be the town that welcomed cultural, social and economic diversity," Cooper said. "Does this town and surrounding towns become

■ SEE MLK, PAGE 12

Principals question state MCAS analysis

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

Arlington public schools' secondary principals are pointing to last year's MCAS boycott as a reason for the Massachusetts Department of Education's negative assessment, which alleged that both schools "failed to meet" expectations.

In a well-publicized incident, more than two dozen AHS 10th grade students boycotted the standardized exam last year. However, Ottoson also had around 10 eighth graders decline to take the test.

For Ottoson Principal Paul Lamoureux, the state's recent analysis does not provide a picture of the "caliber of students" at Ottoson.

"I think we did very well in '98 and '99 and it is difficult to continue with that upward swing all of the time," said Lamoureux.

When setting aside the boy-

cotters' marks, the Ottoson principal is pleased with the scores. He added that last year's eighth grade exams were different because the atmosphere changed.

"I think a lot of things changed last year. There was a lot more publicity of people boycotting the MCAS. There was a lot of negativity to it. I don't know if it had an impact on the students or not," he said.

For AHS Principal Charles McCarthy, the MCAS has caused numerous headaches. McCarthy was at the eye of the standardized test storm last year when he suspended students who refused to take the test. His stance brought criticism from some and his decision was questioned by three School Committee members.

In fact, the strain of the MCAS and education reform is part of the reason why McCarthy is leaving his post as high school principal at the end of the school year.

■ SEE MCAS, PAGE 13

Drug task force arrests alleged heroin dealer

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

The Suburban Middlesex County Drug Task Force, in which Arlington is a member, arrested a 32-year-old Fremont Street resident and charged her with dealing heroin.

Police arrested Kelly A. McGrath on Friday night at her home and charged her with distributing a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, possession of a Class A substance (heroin), possession of a Class A substance (heroin) with intent to distribute, and possession of a hypodermic syringe or needle.

Police Department Director Fred Ryan said Tuesday that any arrest involving heroin is a major one.

"It's major in the sense that any time we can prevent heroin from

getting into the hands of one of our residents it is a successful operation and is a major impact to the community," said Ryan.

The drug task force spotted McGrath meeting three males outside her Fremont Street home Friday. They saw her hand something to one of the men, which police later found out was a \$10 bag of heroin, according to police.

The men drove away in a car and police followed them to Massachusetts Avenue. When the car stopped, police approached the vehicle and saw a passenger place something into his left coat pocket, which police later discovered was heroin, according to police.

The man, Earl P. Nickerson, 21, 144 Gardner St., was arrested and charged with possession of a Class A substance (heroin).

Police then descended on

■ SEE HEROIN, PAGE 12

Pair skate in national ice dancing finals tonight in Boston

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

The years of hard work and sacrifice continue to pay off for three Arlington residents, who are impressing the judges at the U.S. National Figure Skating Championships in Boston this week.

As of Wednesday afternoon, Jessica Valentine and Matt Kossack were in fifth place in the pairs senior dance competition. In addition, AHS student Victoria Devins and her partner, Kevin O'Keefe, won the national novice ice dancing crown at Matthews Arena earlier this week.

"It's exactly where we thought they were probably going to be," said Peggy Valentine, of her granddaughter Jessica's success.

Valentine and Kossack were sched-

'What is really nice is it's their hometown and when they come out the place erupts.'

PEGGY VALENTINE

uled to compete in the original dance portion of the competition Wednesday night and the competition concludes with the free dance program tonight at the FleetCenter. The competition takes place from 5 to 6:20 p.m. and is followed by the men's short program. Plenty of tickets are still available.

Not that the duo are starving for supporters. Whenever their names have been announced at the FleetCenter, the crowd has given them an ovation.

"What is really nice is it's their hometown and when they come out the place erupts," said Peggy Valentine.

As members of the Skating Club of Boston, Valentine and Devins are transplanted Arlingtonians, but the Valentines still commute to their home in Greene, Maine, most weekends. Valentine, who is an AHS graduate, has lived in town for four years. Devins and Valentine met 15 months ago and have become as close as sisters, said Peggy Valentine.

Meanwhile, Valentine and Kossack have been skating together since June 1996. After winning the bronze medal in the junior level at last year's U.S. Nationals, the two are now competing at the senior level, the highest level in ice dancing. They have competed in international competitions in China, Sweden, and Czechoslovakia.

Meanwhile, Devins and O'Keefe earned their spot at this year's Nationals by winning the Novice Dance Eastern Sectional Title last month in Marlborough.

With Devins and O'Keefe's job accomplished, the focus has turned to Valentine and Kossack as they compete against the best. Regardless of the outcome, Valentine's grandmother is proud.

"Jesi is a wonderful granddaughter. She's just a good kid. She's not a showoff and not the type that needs the spotlight. But when she's on the ice, she has a different personality. You look at her and, unless you knew her personally, you wouldn't know how much of a sweet young lady she is. The same goes with Vicki," said Valentine, adding that numerous family members and friends are making the trek to Boston.

INSIDE

Glass with a past
Tableware of '50s at home today.

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communityclassifieds.com

Q. Where to turn for great advice?
A. See Ask the Experts in this week's Communityclassifieds.com section.

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FOR THE RECORD

POLICE LOG

The following are excerpts from the Arlington Police Department log. The information is open to the public.

Monday, Jan. 8

• At 10:42 a.m., a woman at an Arlington business told police that a man came to her place of work to install carpet. However, the man kept complaining and swearing. The woman asked the carpet installer to stop and then asked him to leave, which caused the carpet installer to say, "You'll get yours, lady."

• At 1:44 p.m., police responded to a call of a broken window at the Thompson School. Police believe the window was broken by a snowball.

• At 3:04 p.m., a person on Lakehill Avenue reported an unwashed man walking along the street.

• At 4:53 p.m., the Police Department received a call of car break-ins on Park Avenue. Two women told police that their vehicles were entered. Items taken included cash, credit cards, a cellular phone, a Palm Pilot, sneakers, and a black bag.

• At 5:27 p.m., a 15-year-old Arlington resident reported that her book bag was entered at the Boys and Girls Club women's locker room. The unknown person removed a cellular phone, a wallet, and \$2. The club later found the cellular phone, but the wallet is still missing.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

• At 9 a.m., a Howard Street resident reported that someone pos-

sibly threw a snowball through a storm window.

• At 1:31 p.m., police responded to Mill Street, where a woman told police that her daughter's \$1,800 diamond ring was stolen.

• At 5:39 p.m., the Police Department received a call for youths throwing snowballs on Eastern Avenue.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

• At 3:45 p.m., a Decatur Street man told police that his pickup truck was damaged. The man told police that he heard a crashing sound in his backyard and later found that the rear window of the driver's side of his truck was smashed. He also discovered a brick in the back seat.

Thursday, Jan. 11

• At 6:07 p.m., a Somerville man reported that his ex-girlfriend rummaged through his bag at Spy Pond Playground earlier that day. She allegedly stole \$352 and then threw the bag back to her ex-boyfriend, before fleeing the area with her new boyfriend.

Saturday, Jan. 12

• At 11:21 p.m., police responded to a call on Eastern Avenue for youths throwing beer bottles from a car.

Saturday, Jan. 13

• At 10:32 p.m., police responded to a call on Massachusetts Avenue, where a resident told police that someone placed stickers and pieces of ice on a car.

Arrests

Friday, Jan. 12

• At 9 p.m., police arrested Kelly A. McGrath, 32, 20 Fremont St., and charged her with possession of a Class A substance (heroin) with the intent to distribute, possession of a hypodermic syringe or needle, distributing a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a school, and possession of a Class A substance (heroin). Officer Sean Kiernan made the arrest.

• At 9:40 p.m., police arrested Earl P. Nickerson, 21, 144 Gardner St., and charged him with possession of a Class A substance (heroin). Officer Sean Kiernan made the arrest.

Saturday, Jan. 13

• At 4:30 a.m., police arrested a 16-year-old Chelsea teen and charged him with operating a motor vehicle without a license and operating a vehicle recklessly to endanger. While Officer Brandon Kindle monitored traffic on Massachusetts Avenue, the teenager allegedly accelerated after passing the cruiser and began driving in circles in the middle of Mass Ave. Performing "doughnuts," the teen stopped his vehicle facing eastbound and began to speed off, only to start driving in circles again. Kindle stopped the vehicle and discovered that the teen did not possess a license. Kindle arrested the teenager.

At 10:35 p.m., police arrested

Michael J. Powers, 37, 17 Smith Corner Road, Plaistow, N.H., and charged him with assault and battery. Officer Robert Gamez made the arrest on Fremont Street.

Sunday, Jan. 14

• At 11 p.m., police arrested a 16-year-old Cambridge teen and charged him with breaking and entering a motor vehicle at night, operating a motor vehicle without a license, failing to stop for police while operating a motor vehicle, buying and receiving a stolen motor vehicle, possessing burglarious tools, malicious destruction of property more than \$250, and the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. The arrest came after the teen allegedly stole a Jeep Cherokee from Everett Street earlier that evening. Officer James Fitzpatrick made the arrest.

• At 11:30 p.m., police arrested Michael J. Stone, 17, 12 Michael Way, Cambridge, and charged him with breaking and entering a motor vehicle at night, receiving stolen property more than \$250, and the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. The arrest was in connection with the theft of a Jeep Cherokee on Everett Street. Officer James Fitzpatrick made the arrest.

FIRE LOG

The Arlington Fire Department responded to 30 calls from Jan. 8 to 11, including 17 with Rescue, three fire alarms, and four investigations. References to paramedics denote two-medical teams from Arlington Ambulance Service, a private Arlington-based ambulance company.

Monday, Jan. 8

• At 8:27 a.m., firefighters responded to a call on Cutter Hill Road for a gas water heater problem. They shut off the gas line and extinguished the problem. The owner was told not to use the heater again until it is repaired.

Tuesday, Jan. 9

• At 10:48 a.m., an 80-year-old Park Avenue man reported that he was not feeling well. Rescue 1 and Engine 3 responded and placed the man on oxygen and checked his vital signs. Rescue transported him to Mt. Auburn Hospital with paramedics.

Wednesday, Jan. 10

• At 6:27 p.m., a 44-year-old

woman suffered a seizure at a Massachusetts business. Witnesses said the seizure took around one to two minutes. Firefighters placed the woman on oxygen, checked her vital signs, and stabilized her head. Rescue transported her to Mt. Auburn Hospital with paramedics.

Thursday, Jan. 11

• At 11:11 a.m., the Fire Department received a call for a 42-year-old woman experiencing head and chest pain on Foster Street. The woman told firefighters that she suffered the pain for the past week. Rescue transported her with paramedics to St. Elizabeth Hospital.

Note: In last week's fire log, The Advocate printed an alert from Capt. Bob Casey on hard-wired smoke detectors. Casey told The Advocate this week that most electrical smoke detectors have battery backups, so there shouldn't be a problem when the power is out. In addition, when the power is out, that does not affect battery-operated detectors.

MEETINGS

Thursday, Jan. 18

• Town Manager Search Committee will have a wrap-up meeting at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first floor conference room.

• Conservation Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second floor conference room. The commission will continue the public hearing on the Mugar

property.

• Council on Aging meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center, Conference Room, first floor, 27 Maple St.

Tuesday, Jan. 23

• Cable Advisory Committee meets at 8:30 a.m. in the Selectmen's Board Room, Town Hall, second floor.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Fiesta

Plan to liven up a chilly winter afternoon at the Robbins Library Children's Fiesta on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2 to 4 p.m., for families with children in grades K to 3 in the library's Children's Room.

The fiesta will feature a performance by Jorge Arse, Puerto Rican singer and storyteller, who will share the culture of Latin America, and the Caribbean at 2 p.m. in the Community Room. Arse emphasizes audience participation and asks children to join him on drums, rhythm instruments, stories, and dances.

Children currently enrolled in the Arlington elementary schools Spanish program are expected to display their work and perhaps perform some songs for

the fiesta. In addition, Arlington's sister city of Teosinte, El Salvador, will be represented, asking children to help with a craft and learn more about Central America. Artifacts from El Salvador will be exhibited in the Children's Room display case throughout the month.

Finally, children will have a chance to taste some Valencia oranges and Clementines and try some "kiddie" Sangria.

Families are welcome to drop in and enjoy this event with no prior registration. The fiesta is sponsored by the Russell Fund. For more information, call 316-3234.

Dallin art exhibit

New Mexico painter, Carol Allison, will

be showing oils and watercolors in the classical realist approach at the Cyrus Dallin Museum for the month of January. A reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 14 in the Cyrus Dallin Museum, in the Jefferson Cutter House, 1 Whittemore Park.

The exhibit contains a variety of subject matter. Since moving to the East Coast she has concentrated on landscapes which will be included in the exhibit.

The museum is open from Monday through Friday noon to 4 p.m. Call museum for best viewing times at 641-0595. For viewing Saturday or Sunday, call Carol Allison for appointment 777-1253.

Goin' country

The Stratton School PTO holds its

biggest fundraiser of the year — a Country Sweetheart Dance and BBQ — on Saturday, February 10 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Come and celebrate Valentine's Day with old and new friends and have an old-fashioned good time. Entertainment will be provided by the award-winning Robin Right Band and as you chow down on BBQ from Redbones.

There will be a cash bar, lots of raffles, prizes, and surprises. Organize a table for 8 to 10 friends or come on your own.

All proceeds from this event will support Stratton's education and enrichment programs. Adults only. Tickets are \$35 per person and are on sale now.

For tickets or more information, please call Laura Morrisette at 646-0337.

Wednesday, Jan. 24

- RCN cable license hearing (RCN) will be at 7 p.m. in the Selectmen's Board Room, Second Floor, Town Hall.
- Reservoir Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex.

Police exam deadline next week

The Police Officer Civil Service Examination application deadline is Jan. 26 for the April 28 exam. Application material is available at the Department of Personnel, Town Hall, third floor annex, 730 Massachusetts Ave. Women, minorities, and veterans are encouraged to register. For more information, please call 316-3120.

The Arlington Advocate

(USPS 031-900)

HOW TO REACH US

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NEWSROOM

Masterson Moynihan Fronczak
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SENIOR CIRCUIT

by Lisa D'Eon
Marketing Director

TOP ACHIEVEMENTS IN PUBLIC HEALTH

The average life expectancy of people in this country has increased more than 30 years over the past century. Experts attribute 25 years of this gain to advances in public health. Specifically, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cite the ten most important achievements in public health as: vaccination, motor-vehicle safety, safer workplaces, control of infectious diseases, decline in deaths from heart disease and stroke, safer and healthier foods, healthier mothers and babies, family planning, fluoridation of drinking water, and recognition of tobacco as a health hazard. Beyond these measures, each of us has the option of adopting healthy lifestyle measures that further drive up life expectancy. One of the most important of these is engaging in regular exercise.

The effect of regular exercise cannot be overstated. It's a tough thing to begin, but within a few short weeks, the benefits become their own reward. At LONGMEADOW PLACE BURLINGTON, 42 Mall Road, you'll receive the kind of individual attention and care you need and want as well as the autonomy to make your own informed choices. We understand the importance simple daily kindness plays in our lives. Call for information at 781-270-9008. We understand the changing needs of seniors and offer numerous services to meet them as well as supportive staff.

PS. It is never too late to make healthy lifestyle choices.

THIS WEEK on townonline.com

Town Online publishes online 7 days a week at www.townonline.com and America Online Keyword: Town Online. Town Online features news from more than 45 local publications, profiles of more than 200 Eastern Massachusetts communities, and items of regional interest.

ARTS ALL AROUND - NOW THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

(www.townonline.com/arts)

Visit Town Online's expanded arts and entertainment section.

Town Online's Arts All Around Web site brings you stories, photos and reviews from CNC's Arts & More staff and the entertainment writers from the MetroWest Daily News.

Find out the latest information on movies, see film trailers, read film critic David Brudnoy's movie reviews, get the latest dining reviews from CNC restaurant critics and the Phantom Gourmet, learn about the latest theater, dance and classical music productions as well as literature news and reviews.

Arts All Around also gives you the latest information for: popular music, cd reviews, museum and exhibit showings and television highlights.

Check out Arts All Around at: www.townonline.com/arts.

GET CONNECTED

Free web sites for local groups are available through the Community Connections program at Community Newspaper Company.

Churches, marching bands and sports teams have used this program to join the World Wide Web. Interested? Contact Deirdre O'Leary by e-mail at doleary@cnc.com or check out the program at www.townonline.com/community/registration.html

TOWN ONLINE INDEX

- Arts All Around www.townonline.com/arts
- Parent and Baby www.townonline.com/parentandbaby
- Real Estate www.townonline.com/realestate
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VODKA	WHISKEY	WOODBIDGE BY MONDAVI
Ketel One \$25.99 Absolut \$24.99 Smirnoff \$17.99 Gordon's \$14.99	Canadian Club \$16.99 Seagrams 7 \$14.99 Jim Beam \$16.99 Canadian Mist \$13.99	Cab. Sauv., Chard, Merlot \$11.99 Whit. Zin., Sauv. Blanc, Zin \$9.99
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Teens nabbed after stealing Jeep

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

An Arlington police officer is being praised for his work after the arrest of two teenagers who allegedly stole a Jeep Cherokee from Everett Street Sunday.

Police arrested Michael J. Stone, 17, 12 Michael Way, Cambridge, and a 16-year-old Cambridge resident Sunday night. The 16-year-old was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle at night, operating a motor vehicle without a license, failing to stop for police while operating a motor vehicle, buying and receiving a stolen motor vehicle, possessing burglarious tools, malicious destruction of property more than \$250, and the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Stone was charged with breaking and entering a motor vehicle at night, receiving stolen property more than \$250, and the unauthorized use of a motor vehicle.

Police received a report from a Revere woman visiting an Everett

Street resident at 8:15 p.m. Sunday. The woman reported that her 1998 Jeep Cherokee was stolen a short time before her call. She noticed the vehicle missing when she was leaving the Everett Street residence.

Officer James Fitzpatrick filed the report.

Two hours later, the officer was returning from a different call and traveling on Mystic Street, near the Mystic Valley Parkway/Mystic Street/Summer Street intersection, when he observed the Jeep stopped in traffic.

Fitzpatrick informed dispatch that the stolen vehicle was turning left onto Mystic Valley Parkway and followed the jeep. Arlington police also notified Medford police in case the suspects drove into that city.

Officer Dan Kelly joined Fitzpatrick in the pursuit, while Sgt. James McHugh positioned himself near the Medford Street rotary.

After notifying the other officers that he was going to try to

stop the car, Fitzpatrick activated his blue lights and siren. However, the driver, later identified by police as the 16-year-old, initially ignoring the signals to stop.

The teenage driver did stop a short time later near the driveway of Medford Savings Bank.

With the help of Officer Dennis Corbett, Kelly, and McHugh, Fitzpatrick arrested the duo.

Police Department Director Fred Ryan praised the officers Tuesday.

"Three hours after the report, [Fitzpatrick] was still alert enough to spot the vehicle," said Ryan. "Then, work to strategically plan for a backup officer so that, when it was time to move in to stop [the suspects], there was no chase. The suspects were placed into custody without incident or injury."

After the arrest, Stone allegedly told police that the 16-year-old had asked him to drive to Arlington earlier Sunday. Once on Everett Street, Stone told police that the other teen asked him to stop. Dropping off the other teen,

who left with a screwdriver, Stone drove to the end of the street and waited for the 16-year-old, according to Stone.

Once the 16-year-old was driving the vehicle, the two drove to Stone's Cambridge home. At that point, the two took a joyride around the area, including Belmont, Woburn, and Cambridge, before their encounter with Arlington's blue.

Police report damage to the Jeep's driver's side door lock and ignition.

Nevertheless, with the vehicle recovered and the two suspects arrested, Ryan is pleased with his officers.

"The biggest point is: that's just good police work," said Ryan.

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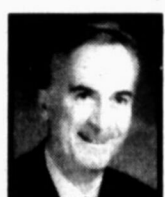
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First Episcopal church reaches milestone

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

One hundred twenty-five years is a long time and Marjorie Gardner has seen more than half of them, every Sunday, at St. John's Episcopal Church.

The Pleasant Street Episcopal house of worship celebrates its 125th anniversary with a special service this Sunday at 10 a.m. at its former home on Academy Street, the current site of the Arlington Friends of the Drama.

As a girl, Gardner saw the church build a new building in the middle of the Depression, opening at 74 Pleasant St. in 1934. She has been going to St. John's for 72 years, but it hadn't occurred to her how long that was.

"Oh, gosh no. I haven't thought of that," Gardner said.

Filling a Void

Arlington has a diverse faith community. 16 denominations and 31 churches are listed in the town's guide for the year 2000. But when St. John's opened in 1876, it was the first Episcopal house in Arlington. Until that point, followers had to travel to Medford, Cambridge or Somerville to attend services, according to Arlington historian

Richard Duffy.

The first 65 members of St. John's met in Town Hall on the afternoon of Oct. 3, 1875. The call to create a place of Episcopalian worship actually emanated from Cambridge where the Rev. Theodosius S. Tyng, rector of St. James parish, called for an Arlington church to form. They soon focused on building a space of their own.

But the church's own written history recalls that, ironically, there was also an economic downturn in 1876.

"Conditions were difficult at the start, since the country was in a period of depression following the panic of 1873 (the Panic of 1873 was the first time in New York Stock Exchange history when the exchange was shut down after values plummeted creating a snowball effect that would last for years). However, under the leadership of the Reverend David G. Haskins, who was elected first rector at the Jan. 19 (1876) meeting, a movement was soon started for a church building."

But the first building was soon built with the help of wealthy church members from Boston, and in 1877, St. John's had its first home on Academy Street.

The building was intended to be a temporary structure, Duffy said.

"(The church) stood on grade-level ground until 1892, when a proper cellar was dug to accommodate expansion," he said.

That "temporary" structure was the church's home for 60 years, until 1930, when the church purchased the mansion of the late Abel Peck at the corner of Pleasant Street and Lombard Road, where the current building stands. And that's where they have been since.

"The architect designed a very traditional building that was inspired by English Gothic architecture," Duffy said.

St. John's stood as the only Episcopalian church in Arlington until



St. John's Episcopal Church's first home was on Academy Street, which is the current home of the Arlington Friends of the Drama. The church celebrates its 125th anniversary Sunday.

1919, when the Church of our Savior organized in East Arlington.

Present and Future

Fr. Ronald Ramsay, now with the church for three years and the 16th rector at St. John's, sees the state of the church as "very healthy, very vibrant, very committed to the cause of Christ."

It's a glowing report, but Ramsay said he looks at the bigger picture.

"People are seeking God more right now," he said. "I think it's a good trend, but I see this in a large historical fabric. There's a certain ebb and flow where people wander away from the church and then they return."

When Arlington grew in the 1950s, the town's churches, among them St. John's, led the way by providing recreational opportunities for boys and girls. The St. John's Men's Club established a Court of the Order of Sir Galahad for Boys, and the women established a branch of the Girls' Friendly Society. The statewide contingent of Sir Galahad would gather at Camp O-At-Ka in Maine for a weekend each year.

In turn, the church struggled through an ebb during the 1960s, where there was a general decline in church participation, particularly among youth.

St. John's own history reports that at the time, the church reached out to other parishes throughout the state to encourage a different type of worship, highlighted by "unusual and uplifting Sunday

morning services."

In the present, "We begin to plant seeds as early as possible," said Ramsay, trying to make the Holy Spirit a more interesting proposition to today's fast-paced youth.

A more vexing challenge that attracting youth, though, is the role St. John's and all churches assume in formulating public policy. Both presidential candidates this year favored the idea of churches taking on more responsibility in delivering social services. Ramsay said he embraces that idea.

"I don't think that the gospel writers ever intended for there to be a sharp divide between the church and the society. We're in an effort to create a more compassionate social order," he said. "But the church has had times where it has lost its vigor."

Currently, St. John's is involved with the Arlington Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity Boston, and serves as a sister church to St. Barnabas Church and School in Haiti, among others.

But letting everyone know what the good works are is the church's key challenge, he said.

"In the past, the church has practiced a kind of quiet spirituality. In order for the church to continue to grow and prosper, our visibility is the greatest challenge."

As for Gardner, she couldn't be happier.

"Oh yes, I love the church. I'm very pleased, as I always have been," she said.

State plans to move Spy Pond sandbar

BY LES G. MASTERTON
STAFF WRITER

Environmentalists and Spy Pond advocates received some encouraging news recently as the MassHighway Department agreed to remove the ever-growing sandbar from the Route 2 side of the kettle pond.

Thirty years of Route 2 runoff have created a sandbar that the town has asked the state to remove. After years of pleas falling on deaf ears or being axed from budgets, the state department is looking to rectify the problem.

MassHighway is hoping to bring a dredging machine that would be used as a giant wet vacuum to suck out the sand, possibly in the spring.

The sandbar in the southwest portion of the pond has transformed that area into an eyesore. Where Spy Pond's water once flowed is now a stagnant, swampy place where cups and debris are mired in smelly, dumpy waters. The sandbar has caused an inlet, separating some of the water into its own swampy lagoon full of coffee cups and plastic waste.

Advocates worried that eventually the sandbar would cordon off a small section of the pond, continue to grow, and become a wetlands.

"It's getting so large that it could close off a corner of the pond and isolate it," said Spy Pond Committee Chairman Eugene Benson.

Spy Pond Committee members and MassHighway representatives met at the pond last month, where the state explored the size and depth of the sandbar and checked for contamination. The state found that the sandbar is at least 950 cubic yards. In addition, the state's 10-foot measuring rods were not long enough to gauge the depth of some areas of the sandbar, said

Benson.

Benson added that the state thinks the sandbar could be 50 percent more than mapped.

The state has not announced its contamination findings, which could become a sticking point in the sandbar removal.

"If it's pretty benign, there are probably some uses that can be made in town or a neighboring town," said Benson. "It might not be a problem to get rid of."

However, if the sandbar does produce high levels of pollutants, the MassHighway department will have a harder time disposing the sand and might have to pay to get rid of it, he added.

Benson said the plan is for the state to determine the amount of work, appear before the Arlington Conservation Commission for an order of conditions, and then remove the sandbar in the spring.

Once the sandbar is removed, environmental advocates fear that the problem will return after a few years. Instead, local activists would like to see the state change the drain pipe in the sandbar area. Currently, the pipe slows down water runoff, which increases the buildup of solids and causes the sandbar.

Benson told *The Advocate* Monday that that highway department is not receptive to the idea because of maintenance and questions about effectiveness. However, Benson said the town has a similar device at Hill's Pond.

With the state unlikely to budge on a different drainage pipe, advocates are expecting a regular fight with the sandbar.

"The bottom line is if we can't convince them [to try another device], they will have to clean out the sandbar every decade or so," said Benson.

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Town Hall temporary relocation

Due to the current Town Hall rehabilitation, it will be necessary to temporarily relocate some of the offices for a short time to allow for floor refinishing. The office relocations and effective dates are as follows:

Jan. 18-19 — Selectman's Office relocated to Personnel Office — third floor of the Town Hall Annex.

Jan. 25-26 — Assessor's Office relocated to the Treasurer's Office — first floor of main building.

Feb. 1-2 — Town Clerk's Office relocated to the Personnel Office — third floor of the Town Hall Annex.

Feb. 8-9 — Treasurer's office relocated to the Assessor's Office — first floor of main building.

All offices are planning to provide full services during the relocation periods. If you are planning to visit any of the offices during the relocation periods, you may want to call ahead to ensure all services will be available.

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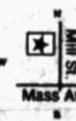
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Police arrest man after barricading himself in his home

BY LES G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

After a brief standoff, Arlington police arrested a 22-year-old Forest Street man, who barricaded himself in his home Tuesday night.

Timothy M. Sheehan, 50 Forest St., was arrested and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (a pellet gun) and possession of a Class A substance (heroin).

Police received the call shortly after 9 p.m. Tuesday that Sheehan had barricaded himself on the second floor and was threatening harm to himself and others. At the scene, police spoke to a family member who had exited the house.

Police discovered that Sheehan was waving a black gun, which he claimed was a 9 mm and loaded. He continued to wave the gun and make threats.

Sgt. Paul Conroy used a cruiser's PA system to speak to Sheehan, who was in the attic. Sheehan told police he was not coming out. After several minutes of yelling, Sheehan told police that the gun was on the back hall stairs, according to police.

Sheehan moved down to the second floor, where he contin-

ued to tell police that he was not leaving the house and that police would need to enter the home and get him.

While the suspect continued to yell, police entered the home and found the gun, which turned out to be a pellet gun, on the back stairs.

Police apprehended the man in the home and placed him under arrest without further incident.

"We were fortunate that we were able to place him into custody without any major injury to him and the officers," said Police Department Director Fred Ryan.

At that time, Sheehan complained that he broke his left foot when he jumped from the attic to the second floor. Rescue transported him to Winchester Hospital for treatment.

Meanwhile, police searched the home and found a small clear baggie, with what police believe to be a gram of heroin, and a Daisy pellet rifle with a wide lens scope and tripod.

After Tuesday's arrest, Ryan said police are still reviewing the incident.

"There will be a follow-up investigation and we'll find out what lead up to the series of events," said Ryan.

Cable advocates concerned about RCN hearing

Residents want to see draft license

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

The public gets to comment on RCN's application for a cable license Jan. 24.

But the problem is, no one's quite sure what to comment on.

Typically a cable license hearing is the time where people get to talk about the small but significant details of their cable service, "things like, why don't I get the History Channel my bill is never right," said Town Counsel John Maher.

But the implications are bigger this time, with Arlington home to two cable providers, and those interested in starting an independent cable corporation in Arlington are anxious to read the contract.

"It's not designed to have public input," said Kathy Colwell, one of the members of the startup called The Arlington Community Media, Inc. "In order to have any input for the hearing, we need to see the documents."

That's not going to happen, said Maher.

"Next Wednesday is a statutory public hearing, but it's not an opportunity to comment on a draft license." He said he is

nowhere near having a draft on hand yet.

"Well, something has to be presented on the 24th," Selectman Diane Mahon said. "Unless I'm incorrect, we have 60 days from the date of the hearing to render a decision."

Asked if there will be another public hearing after the license is drafted, Maher said, "No. Not unless the selectmen want one."

Selectman Jack Hurd thinks it's not a bad idea.

"I wasn't aware that we would not be discussing it publicly," Hurd said. "It certainly sounds like a reasonable request."

Hurd said he would discuss the matter with Maher further.

Colwell said there are details within the license that are vital to how The Arlington Community Media proceeds with their plans.

"The real issue here is the 5 percent of gross income set," she said. "How does the town see that money used. Is it used for roads, or is it PEG (public, educational and governmental) access?"

The 5 percent law is a mandate set by the Federal Communications Commission through the Telecommunications Act of 1996. According to Robert Wilson, spokesman for the state office of

Telecommunications and Energy, cable companies contribute a maximum of 5 percent to the town coffers. There is no set minimum, he said, and negotiations are handled between the town and the cable company.

PEG are typically the three types of public access programming. Each one gets its own channel within the cable system. While AT&T Broadband (formerly Media One) carries PEG, RCN does not.

While Arlington's local programming is now handled by AT&T Broadband, Colwell and a group of residents want to start running it themselves as volunteers, provided they could use the RCN money to put together a studio.

Hurd said "The current agreement with AT&T involves some of the money going back into the schools. I would think there might be an opportunity to continue that practice and negotiate some additional funding for (The Arlington Community Media)."

Mahon would not comment on ongoing negotiations regarding that money.

"The way the wording is (with the contract with AT&T), it's dedicated to PEG," said Mahon. "Right now, it just seems to fit that it goes to media access programs."

Currently, RCN has an open video system license, which in practical terms is the same as a cable license. An open video system license was another portion of the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act. Companies that offered telephone services were allowed to also offer cable, which was formerly restricted by the FCC.

Under the terms of the original contract, the major benefits for Arlington, as dictated by Media One's contract, are an Institutional Network (I-Net) permitting transmission from all municipal buildings at no cost, saving the town a substantial amount of money; an educational grant of \$150,000 for the schools for technology equipment; free Internet access for all public schools and libraries and the Community Safety Building for four years; 50 cents per subscriber — at this time — and 5 percent of gross revenue if federal law changes (which it did) and lifts the limit towns can receive from cable providers which the town puts into its General Fund; and a commitment to convert the former Dallin Library into a local access station, saving the town substantial costs for renovation.

The public hearing for RCN's cable license takes place on Jan. 24 at 7 p.m. in the Selectman's Board Room, Town Hall, 730 Mass. Ave.

Liberty chorus seeks singers

The Liberty Belle Chorus of Sweet Adelines International, a competitive award winning women's chorus rehearsing in Arlington is seeking adult singers of all ages.

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GIRL SCOUT NEWS

• Second and Third Grade Brownies will have a Try-It Day on Sunday, Feb. 4 at the Park Avenue Congregational Church from 2 to 4 p.m. The theme is Me and My Shadow and the activities include shadow puppet play, making your silhouette portrait, making shadow animals, creating shadow pictures and much more. The cost is \$3 per girl.

Any questions please call Cathie at 641-15434.

• Attention, Older Girls (Grades 6-12) and Arlington Leaders. We are in the process of planning an overnight at Hampshire Hills in Milford, New Hampshire on Saturday, March 31.

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Hampshire Hills overnights are called Lock Ins, they are fully supervised overnights filled with games and organized activities throughout the night. Late night Pizza is served and sun rise breakfast.

It will cost \$30 (NON-REFUNDABLE) per person. We are also hoping to have a bus so the cost may increase by \$5. If you are interested, please call me at 646-5928 or email me at fitz@mit.edu.

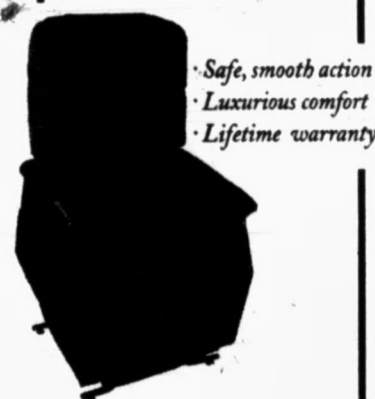
Marzilli office hours

State Representative Jim Marzilli (D-Arlington) will hold office hours this Friday, Jan. 19 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Council on Aging, which is located at the 27 Maple Street entrance of Arlington Town Hall. Rep. Marzilli holds office hours on the first and third Fridays of the month.

During this time, residents can come to discuss their concerns about town and state matters, legislation, and problems they are having with state agencies. Rep. Marzilli can also be contacted at his Boston office (617) 722-2460 or Rep. James Marzilli@hou.state.ma.us.

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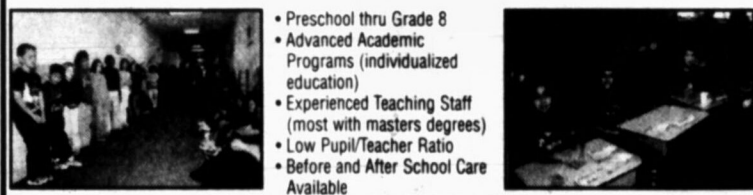
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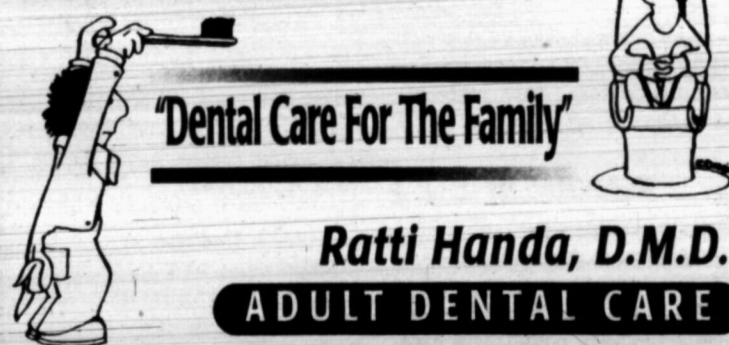
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LEARNING

SCHOOL NOTES

Dallin PTO announces grants

The Dallin PTO mini-grant committee has awarded grants for the following programs:

An author study for a kindergarten and fourth-grade class, quilting math, a first-grade time capsule, Kwanzaa cookie baking, a second-grade trip to the Butterfly Place, funding for a Colonial Day look for third graders dressed in their finest colonial garb, working at Colonial chores, a school-wide jazz concert; a trip to Salem's Pioneer Village;

Also visits by Mrs. John Hancock, Emily Dickinson and Paul Revere, a trip to the MFA to see their Colonial rooms, hands-on models for the fourth-grade ancient-civilizations curriculum, after-school physical education, a contribution to the ACE Callopie magazine, dissection of owl pellets and the purchase of "Respectrum" rulers, a tool for grades three through five to help identify how they can support our community of respect and fairness.

Thanks to the PTO for allocating additional funds and to the Student Council for their generous contribution.

KidStock coming to Dallin

This winter's KidStock project at Dallin is an original play based on the Harry Potter novel series.

The session runs from Jan. 18 to March 29, from 2:20-3:20 p.m., likely in the auditorium for grades two through five.

Hiers went home in December; additional ones are in the office.

The program needs one parent to be in the building during rehearsal time. In return, your child's fee will be waived.

If interested, call Teri Muller (643-1297). Note the program will not be able to run without this position filled.

Also at Dallin:

- The math and science enrichment committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday, Jan. 24, at the Briner's, 438 Appleton St., to continue planning for the family science night, set for March 7. All are welcome to attend this meeting; plenty of volunteers needed. Information or directions: 648-9032.

- Interested in forming a committee to promote walking to school? The group would address such issues as buses, safety and walking events. Perhaps you're interested in forming a "walking bus" — a group of kids walking with two adults (Call Bonnie (648-3855)).

- The next student council bottle-and-can drive is set for Feb. 6 and 7.

- Thanks to Rich Bento and his staff at the Department of Public Works for continuing to shovel the Florence Avenue sidewalk. Next meeting of the safety committee is set for Jan. 19 at 8:30 a.m. All welcome.

Tribal rhythms at Brackett

On Thursday, Jan. 25, Brackett students will have the opportunity to see tribal Rhythms perform. This event, brought by the cultural enrichment committee, is a blend of music, dance and dramatic stories inspired by the ancient origins of the arts.

The performance builds a sense of community by creating a festive atmosphere that strengthens group spirit and involves the entire audience in a celebration of their common roots. The performances will be held in the gymnasium at 8:30 a.m. for kindergarten through second grades and at 9:50 for third through fifth grades. Families and the public are invited to attend.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Arlington Arts Council, a local agency supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Ottoson discusses safety, signs

At their recent meeting, members of the Ottoson Parent Advisory Committee (OPAC) discussed safety and signs.

Amy Cohen of the safety committee met with Dave McKenna, School Committee member and safety officer, and they walked around various intersections, according to a summary of the most recent OPAC meeting. McKenna reported that the crossing guard at Gray/Quincy streets, added last fall following a mishap, was working well. He will be working with DPW to improve the one-way sign on Acton Street, and painting a crosswalk at Benjamin/Quincy.

Environmental regulations require the use of water-based — that is, disappearing — paint on crosswalks. A town contract change is needed for more frequent repainting. He will meet with Superintendent Kathleen Donovan to request a traffic supervisor at Mass. Ave./Appleton Street.

The project to create permanent signs for outside and inside the school has been launched. Defining needs is well under way, suppliers have been identified. Funding issues will need to be addressed.

Application for 503(c)(3) status (tax-exempt organization) was filed. The turnaround time is unknown.

The wish-list committee is looking into the cost of purchasing temporary window screens so that classroom windows can be opened in good weather.

Plans are under way to acknowledge the 567 students who achieved high honors, honors or perfect attendance for the first term.

Extensive discussion ensued regarding distribution of the newsletter. Backpack distribution was spotty, with some families receiving them immediately, and a few not at all. Mail distribution, as was done in past years, is sometimes slow, but the newsletter arrives eventually.

Prevailing sentiment was that all wished for backpack distribution to work, but recommended that the newsletter committee consider mail distribution for the next edition, as well as publication to the e-mail list, on the Web site and having extra copies available in the media center.

Only about 150 returns have been received so far for the student directory. Caroline Lawless will publish what was received. Solicitation plans for next year are under way, with several venues being considered, including a request form to be sent with the September welcome-



Professional artist and Stratton School parent Carol Allison demonstrates to Stratton fifth graders the various stages she goes through before a painting is completed. She also brought to class several examples of her work in different art media to help the students understand some of the many ways to visualize what they wish to draw or paint.

back package. That way, the directory could be available in October.

Discussion was held about too-heavy backpacks. It was acknowledged that there are some days where students may have to bring home every book, but that is not the case in the majority of circumstances.

Principal Paul Lamoureux referred to discussions at the November OPAC meeting and information from several medical authorities about the proper way to carry a backpack (higher). He will continue to announce and reinforce to faculty and students that the materials needed should be in the pack. He will put information in a newsletter from the school nurses and Children's Hospital, and will look into obtaining information on how families could purchase extra copies of textbooks.

The next OPAC meeting is Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the faculty lunchroom.

Upcoming at Ottoson:

- Thursday, Jan. 18: sixth-grade parent discussion group with guidance counselor Eric Saum from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Ottoson cafeteria.
- Thursday, Jan. 25: Parent education evening, "Talking to Your Kids About Sex," with Dr. Sharon Maxwell from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Ottoson cafeteria.
- School dance, Friday, Feb. 2, from 7 to 10 p.m., in the Ottoson cafeteria. Tickets are \$3, and must be purchased in advance during lunch period.

Kindergarten information

Bishop: Incoming kindergarten parent orientation, Thursday, Feb. 1 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., for parents only.

Kindergarten registration at Bishop is set for March 8, for parents and children. It will involve a short visit to the classrooms.

The date and time for the story time with Bishop Principal Steve Carme, for parents and children, is to be announced.

Dallin: Registration, Wednesday, March 14, from 1 to 4 p.m., at the school.

Peirce: Registration, Wednesday, Feb. 7, at 6:30 p.m., in the Peirce auditorium, basement floor. The school entrance on Newland Road will be open.

A panel will briefly discuss the procedure for filling out registration forms, PTO activities, kindergarten curriculum and the kindergarten from the parents' viewpoint.

A coffee hour will follow. Registration materials will be provided.

Forms must be filled out and returned on registration day, Wednesday, March 7, from 1 to 3 p.m.

A child born in 1996 is eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2001-2002.

Parents must bring to registration: birth, certificate and immunization records. Questions? Call 316-3736.

Thompson: Registration Thursday, March 8, 9 to 11 a.m. The school is to mail registration packets in mid-January.

Bring to registration a completed packet, a copy of your child's birth certificate, the child's Social Security number and proof of Arlington residency.

Contact Susan Annis (316-3768) if you have not received your registration packet or if you have any questions.

Firefighters egg on students

The December holidays were over, and youngsters at Thompson headed back to school. But as the new year got under way, did students turn their eyes downward toward their books?

Not right away.

First, many of them craned their necks, as their eyes turned toward the blue sky?

And what did they see? Flying eggs.

Well, gently falling eggs, as they floated to Earth buoyed by a parachute — or whatever the students devised.

And who was doing the dropping? The Arlington Fire Department, whose members brought out the high-level equipment for this annual scientific test — known as the Thompson egg drop, held Jan. 3.

Principal Michael McCabe said fourth and fifth graders have to figure out ways that will enable an egg to survive a 75-foot drop.

The solutions vary from designing packaging to parachutes.

This was Thompson's best year on record, McCabe said, as more than 75 percent of the eggs survived the fall.

Helping to organize the event was Bob Largenton, a Thompson School parent and Fire Department lieutenant.

Thompson class re-enacts history

Linda Hanson's reading class recently re-enacted "Washington's Crossing of the Delaware River," an important turning point during the Colonies' war with England.

The class is combining social studies, reading skills and fun, also referred to as reading in the content areas.

Book donations sought

The Stratton PTO Library Committee invites Stratton families to donate books to the Stratton library through the Celebration Gift Book program. Books may be donated in honor of a family or community member or as an acknowledgement of that special teacher in your child's life. A wish list of books is available in December's school newsletter, in the library or by calling Joan McDermott at 646-6287.

Upcoming at Stratton:

- Jan. 26, family social, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the auditorium.
- Feb. 7, PTO meeting, 6:45 p.m., in the auditorium.

AHS PC lab volunteer

Every Monday and Wednesday afternoon from 2:30 to 4 p.m., a community volunteer will be available in the Arlington High School computer lab to assist students with their academic subjects as well as with computer projects.

Joseph Glendenning has an extensive background in writing, mathematics and history. He is eager to help and is expected to be a valuable resource for AHS students.

Peirce story, craft

The Peirce PTO will sponsor a winter story and craft hour today, Thursday, Jan. 18, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the school auditorium.

While this event is designed for children in grades K-3, older and younger siblings are welcome to join.

The PTO will also provide children an afternoon snack.

Information: 316-3637.

School news, events

Tell the public the news about your public school by telling Bob Sprague, communication specialist for Arlington public schools. E-mail school-related items to bsprague1@rcn.com or call 641-4490 by 10:30 a.m. any Monday for publication in The Advocate the following Thursday. He also posts school information on the town's Web site, Arlington Online, at: <http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/> and lists upcoming school events at the site's online calendar.

Teachers extend classes to Web

BY BOB SPRAGUE
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

What teacher Lanise Jacoby started at Peirce School, a teacher Wendy Campbell is continuing at Bishop and Stratton — and anywhere the Internet reaches.

Campbell is extending her class from the familiar walls of two Arlington elementary schools to classrooms without walls of the larger world. She is doing that by posting the results of some of her students on the Web.

Call up her site, and you will see not just a virtual gallery of student work, but one related to lesson plans in classes other than art.

"For example, in third grade, the students study plants in science," she said. "In correlation with that, they study Georgia O'Keeffe's giant flower paintings in art. I include a link to the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum on my site."

Another example is a link to sites featuring ancient Egyptian art.

"This correlates with the fourth-grade unit on ancient Egypt," she said. "I want to add more links to sites about Wampanoag art for the second grade."

To date, the site includes the work of about 15 students, from Bishop and Stratton, though there is less from the latter school. Even so, she promises more will be posted.

The idea for Campbell's site, called "The Artists' Workshop," got its start during a workshop Jacoby conducted called "Build Your Own Web Site."

Jacoby, a veteran Arlington teacher, has her own site. Both Jacoby's and Campbell's are at www.myschoolonline.com.

The main entry for Campbell's site is:

<http://myschoolonline.com/site/0,1876,2123-155639-2-28400,00.html>

The text at this link informs Web surfers that the site is under construction, but all Web site are.

The site is "a place where students, parents, and teachers can find out what is going on in the art program and can gain information about art in general. The

Artists' Workshop site now includes a Kids' Art Calendar, A Student Artwork page, and a Kids' Art Links area."

To see artwork by Bishop students, click on http://myschoolonline.com/student_showcase/0,2711,2123-155639-2-28405,00.html

To see art by Stratton students, go to:

http://myschoolonline.com/student_showcase/0,2711,2123-155647-2-28457,00.html.

Besides Bishop and Stratton, Campbell teaches two first-grade classes at Hardy. Of course, they're at Stratton this year.

In addition to Campbell, you can find "online classes" by other teachers in Arlington public schools by clicking on:

<http://myschoolonline.com/city/0,1879,2123-0-2-0,00.html>.

There you'll find:

- "Mr. Brown's Room," Jim Brown, math teacher at AHS;
- "Edgar's Eager Beavers," Mrs. Edgar, a teacher at Bishop;
- "Mottola's Munchkins," Mrs. Mottola, a teacher at Bishop;
- "Thom Room 231," Mrs. Thom, a third-grade teacher at Bishop;
- "Words from Ms. Wall," Jeanne Wall, a third-grade teacher at Bishop;
- "Mrs. Oldenburg's Class," Mrs. H. Oldenburg, a teacher at Brackett;
- "Mrs. Costello's Corner," Mrs. Costello, a teacher at Brackett;
- "Ms. Gregg's Fourth Grade Stars," Mrs. Gregg, a fourth-grade teacher at Hardy;
- "Days at Frog and Toad Road," Mrs. Jacoby at Peirce;
- "Ms. Meech's Blue Jays," Ms. Meech, a fourth-grade teacher at Peirce;
- "Teddy Bear Terrace," Ms. Forsythe's Kindergarten class at Peirce;
- "K3: The Place To Be," a site at Stratton;
- "Mrs. Galluzzo's Future Leaders," a site at Stratton; and
- "Karlon's Korner," Mrs. Karlson, a teacher at Thompson.

Bob Sprague is the communication specialist for Arlington public schools.

Student registration at St. Agnes School

Saint Agnes Elementary School in Arlington will hold registration for new students for the 2001-2002 school year at the following times:

Kindergarten: Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please bring a copy of the following: birth certificate, baptismal record and immunization record. Child must be five years old by Oct. 31, 2001.

Grades 1-7: Tuesday, Feb. 6, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please bring a copy of the following: birth certificate, baptismal record, health record, First

Eucharist certificate, and child's last report card. Registration for all grades will take place in the school auditorium. Please note: If school is cancelled because of storm registration will take place on Feb. 8. at the same time. (9 - 11) Re-registration for students already enrolled will take place during the week of Jan. 29.

Open House: For New Parents Only - Jan. 31, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. For parents who already have children attending St. Agnes School, Jan. 31, from 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Week of Jan. 22

Monday

Macaroni and cheese, stir fry vegetables, pita bread.

Tuesday

Veal Parmesan sandwich, sun chips, juice bar.

Wednesday

Beef fajita roll up, rice, corn.

Thursday

Teriyaki chicken with vegetables, rice, pineapple.

Friday

Jumbo taco boat, rice, salsa, fruit snack.

Sandwiches, salad, pizza, pasta, stir fry veggies, grill and daily specials also offered daily. Fruit, vegetable, bread and milk served with all meals.

ELEMENTARY

Monday

French toast sticks, yogurt, sliced oranges; chicken nuggets, dipping sauce, rice, veggie sticks; toasted cheese sandwich, potato puffs, juice.

Tuesday

Taco boat with all toppings, rice, juice bar; chicken burger, lettuce and tomato, pasta salad; fresh fruit salad, bagel and cream cheese, raisins.

Wednesday

Popcorn chicken, rice, biscuit, corn; tuna salad roll, Smart food, teddy graham; macaroni and cheese, multigrain roll, salad.

Thursday

Veggie pizza, carrots, fruit snack; turkey Parmesan sandwich, oven baked fries, raisins; fresh fruit salad, cheese croissant, raisins.

Friday

Pasta with tomato sauce, veggie sticks, French roll; calzone, rice, veggie sticks and dip; turkey BLT sandwich, pita chips.



Wednesday

Popcorn chicken, rice, biscuit, corn; tuna salad roll, Smart food, teddy graham; macaroni and cheese, multigrain roll, salad.

Thursday

Veggie pizza, carrots, fruit snack; turkey Parmesan sandwich, oven baked fries, raisins; fresh fruit salad, cheese croissant, raisins.

Friday

Pasta with tomato sauce, veggie sticks, French roll; calzone, rice, veggie sticks and dip; turkey BLT sandwich, pita chips.

Fruit, vegetable, bread and milk served with every meal.

SWEET MUSIC



Students from the Ottoson Orchestra, Band, and Chorus recently performed in a Winter Concert at the middle school. The orchestra was led by Debra Thoresen, chorus by Donna O'Neill, the Select Chorus by Cheryl Hemenway, Chamber Orchestra by Sabato D'Agostino, and band by Paula Demetrio. Above, violinist Clare Nauman performs at the concert.

Out with the old, in with the new

AHS students reflect on Clinton, analyze Bush's next four years

BY DAVE SANTINO
CORRESPONDENT

In two days, George W. Bush will be inaugurated as the 43rd President of the United States.

With a new man heading into the White House, several Arlington High School students, particularly seniors, expressed their opinions both on the Clinton presidency and the potential of America's new leader.

Asked how he thinks President Bill Clinton handled the country in his eight years as president, Joves Luo said, "I think he did a good job with the country. He made the economy good for the last eight years. He only got into some serious trouble with the whole Monica Lewinsky situation, but it's not really his business what he does as long as he was a good president, which I think he was."

Noah Hurley had a mixed opinion of Clinton's handling of the economy. Hurley said what Clinton "did for the economy didn't necessarily hurt things. I don't know if he actually helped it, but it worked."

Keith Joyce also had mixed feelings about Clinton, saying he

has a "good domestic policy," but "he has a tremendously horrible foreign policy. He's a very good orator though."

Joe Lordan, like Luo, expressed a very positive opinion of Clinton.

"Clinton did wonders for our economy. Clinton gave us lots of money to spend and whenever someone gives us lots of money to spend they did a good job. During his administration he was able to up minimum wage. The way I see it, the guy does a good job with the economy, everyone makes some money, everyone's happy. In that respect, I think Clinton did a great job in office."

Student Matt Pooley hopes Bush can continue upholding a strong economy.

"As a person and as a speaker it is hard to follow him just because he is so personable and so into the people," said Pooley. "I hope what he did for the economy doesn't go down the tube because the economy was doing really well during his administration especially the last two years of it. I hope Bush makes the right choices to keep it the way it's been."

For the most part, AHS students are not supportive of Bush as he enters office. But some students have a pessimistic outlook for the country's future.

For example, Joyce said, "In four years we're going to be in a recession and the Democrats will have the House, the Senate, and the presidency."

But other students have expressed optimism. Hurley said he thinks "Bush will do a satisfactory job as president."

Lordan agreed.

"I think (Bush) will do an all right job," said Lordan. "He was governor of Texas for a long time. He obviously knows something about being the governor, about politics, and about being president."

Student Ray Chen is even more enthusiastic.

"I think Bush will do absolutely fine as the president of the United States," said Chen. "Unlike what most people in Massachusetts predict, I think he will be fine running the country, especially economic-wise. He is the president-elect and no matter what he thinks you have to deal with it for the next four years. Unless he proves himself

to be unworthy, you have to stick with him."

Lakis Koulouris didn't say whether he supports Bush, but said he is "expecting a thorough effort from Bush. A lot of people really don't want him there. He's got to take that extra step that a lot of presidents didn't take."

Chen also said that one positive aspect of the Bush administration is that "he has a very diverse cabinet."

Pooley expressed mild concern over Bush's speaking ability.

"He might mess something up big-time just because he's not a great speaker. But that's why he has his cabinet," said Pooley.

When Lordan was asked how Bush can improve on Clinton's last two terms as president, he said, "I suppose he could try to be a more moral president. Spend more time on work, less time on himself. He's in there to do a job."

With the disagreements and controversies behind, Americans wait to see how George W. Bush, the former governor of Texas, will fare as the president of the United States.

"The people have to believe in him," said Pooley.

ON CAMPUS

Kathleen M. Gilmore of Arlington, is one of 18 students serving this year as resident coordinators at Bates College.

As a resident coordinator, Gilmore will serve as a counselor and resource person for other students living in her residence.

RCs at Bates are chosen on the basis of a successful undergraduate career, including evidence of leadership. But the deciding factor is the individual's sensitivity to others, explained Celeste Branham, dean of students. The selection committee consists of two stu-

dents, a faculty member and a dean.

Gilmore, a senior is the daughter of William and Nancy Gilmore. A dean's list student, she has participated in service-learning and was a 1999-2000 junior advisor. Gilmore is a 1997 graduate of Buckingham Browne and Nichols.

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REDEVELOPMENT BOARD NOTES

The Redevelopment Board met on Jan. 8 for three hours. All five members were present.

• Citing economic reasons, Tea Tray in the Sky owner Cynthia Gold told the Redevelopment Board that her proposed business needs another 30 seats – raising the total to 90.

Tea Tray in the Sky, which has been approved for the middle spot at 689 Massachusetts Ave., will move its central operations from Somerville to the former Cherry & Webb site. Japanese restaurant Mr. Sushi has also been approved to take up the left portion of the former store.

Meaning an expansion of 560 square feet, the board unanimously approved changes to the approved plan, which expands the tea shop into part of the third slot. The original approval was for a 30,000-square-foot space.

Planning and Community Development Director Alan McClennen said he has not seen any plans for the third slot.

Whenever there's talk of development in Arlington Center, residents and business owners' top concern is parking. However, member Barry Faulkner said Tea Tray's peak hours are at night, which is off-peak hours for most Center businesses.

Faulkner said the only concern about the expansion is that the original approved plan was "smallish" and the new plan is "not so smallish."

However, member Edward Tsoi said the business' character will not change.

"It seems that the character and operations have changed very little," he said.

In addition, board member Roland Chaput asked Gold the proposed addition's impact on food preparation, noise, and additional deliveries. However, the business owner said the approved plan already planned for a larger kitchen with the possibility of catering. After viewing higher-than-expected construction costs though, Gold said more seating is needed and "catering is a little bit more of an unknown."

"We want to focus on the din-

ing room," said Gold.

• Planning and Community Development Director Alan McClennen gave the board homework for its next meeting, scheduled for Jan. 22.

McClennen asked the members to walk through the Center and develop a list of items they would like changed. Asking them to shy away from areas that probably won't change, including street right of ways, traffic signals, and crosswalks, McClennen suggested members focus on lighting, signage, benches, medians, and business-related topics.

The director asked the board because there is Community Development Block Grant money set aside for the Center. After the board provides a "snapshot of ideas," McClennen said a designer will look at ways to graphically help the area on Massachusetts Avenue from Mill Street to Franklin Street.

• Town Manager Philip Farrington met with the Redevelopment Board Monday, as part of his tour of town board's and departments.

Farrington, who took over for Donald Marquis in November, listened to board members discuss the board's goals and functions.

However, with the introduction complete, Farrington also came before the board to discuss changes to the Village at Cutter's Mill development, which is at the corner of Mill and Summer streets. The new town manager, who will move to the development when it is completed, is looking to make some changes to the approved plans.

Instead of a door and window proposed for his unit, Farrington wants to eliminate the door and include a sliding glass door instead of the window. In addition, the new town manager wants a larger deck, which would accommodate tables, chairs, and provide a "more practical outside living area."

With the larger deck behind a fence, the board unanimously approved the changes to the finished plans.

A HUG FOR MOM



Theresa Aceto-Black and her daughter, Simone Black, 6, listen to storyteller Brother Blue at Robbins Library Sunday. Brother Blue entertained families with stories to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

STAFF PHOTO BY LISA CASSIDY

Teaching opportunities at center for the arts

The Arlington Center for the Arts seeks instructors to teach classes in the Fine Arts. Currently, there are openings available for instructors who can teach Watercolor and Studio Arts for adults during the day.

Opportunities are also available for teachers who are interested in teaching adult classes

in the following specialties beginning in April: painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and fine crafts. We are also looking for teachers to staff children's vacation arts camps, parent/child classes and workshops, and children's art classes. In addition, teachers are invited to submit proposals for new art

classes.

The Arlington Center for the Arts provides a great teaching environment. For more information, visit our web site at www.acarts.org. Send resume and proposals to: Jennifer Flores, education director, Arlington Center for the Arts, 41 Foster Street, Arlington, MA 02474.

Call for artists

The Arlington Center for the Arts has issued a call for entries for the show Visions & Views. This exhibit will feature the work of high school student artists from the towns of Arlington, Cambridge, Belmont, Medford, Lexington, Somerville, and Winchester.

The deadline for submissions is Feb. 15. Artists must be high school students who live in Arlington, Cambridge, Belmont, Medford, Lexington, Somerville, or Winchester. Only 2-D, wall-mounted work is eligible. Students may submit work individually or schools/organizations may choose to submit as a group.

The exhibit will run from March 5 through April 4 at the Gibbs Gallery at the Arlington Center for the Arts.

For detailed entry information, please call the Arlington Center for the Arts at 781-648-6220 or visit www.acarts.org.

Winter classes

The Arlington Center for the Arts offers art classes for adults and children during the eight-week winter term, which began Tuesday.

A wide variety of classes and workshops in the visual arts, literary arts, and performance are available for children and adults; classes are held during the day, after school, and evenings.

For more information or to register, call 781-6748-6620 or visit our Web site at www.acarts.org.

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Contest Rules 1. Eligibility Open to legal U.S. residents that live within a 75 mile radius of greater Boston. The Contest is open to people of all ages, but winners under 18 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. Contest not open to employees or immediate family members of the Boston Celtics, AT&T Broadband, the NBA and NBA Properties, Inc., or their parent, subsidiary, or affiliated companies, or licensees and advertising and promotional agencies of such entities. 2. No Purchase Necessary. To enter contest, participants may enter by subscribing to AT&T Cable or AT&T Digital Cable. Alternatively, participants may enter by mail by sending a 3x5 postcard, with name, age, address and phone number to Boston Celtics, Attn: "All Access Promotion" 151 Merrimac Street, Boston, MA 02114. Entries must be received by February 1, 2001. The Boston Celtics, AT&T Broadband and the NBA and NBA Properties, Inc. will not be responsible for entries lost or delayed and reserve the right to disqualify any mutilated, illegible or altered entry or entries which do not comply with these rules. 3. One entry per person. The retail value of the prize is approximately \$550. Winner is responsible for paying all costs and expenses related to the prize that are not specifically mentioned, including, but not limited to taxes, travel, meals, entertainment, etc. 4. Odds of Winning. Odds of winning are dependent on the number of entries received. To be eligible, entries must be legibly printed and completely filled out. The Boston Celtics, AT&T Broadband, the NBA and NBA Properties, Inc. will not be responsible for entries lost or delayed and reserve the right to disqualify any mutilated, illegible or altered entry or entries which do not comply with these rules. 5. Prize Drawing. Winners will be selected by random drawing held on Monday, February 5, 2001. Winner need not be present to win. Winners will be notified within three (3) days of the drawing, and winner and guest may be required to sign an affidavit of eligibility and liability/publicity release prior to participation in prize. If prize is not claimed within ten (10) days of notification, or if winner does not meet the qualification criteria, an alternate winner will be selected. Each winner will receive four tickets to a Celtics home game at the FleetCenter between March 7, 2001 and April 18, 2001. The winners will have their picture taken on the parquet floor of the FleetCenter, dinner for four at Legends, a tour of the arena, an All-Access Pass T-shirt, commemorative laminated pass, and an autographed Celtics item. 6. Liabilities and Dispute Resolution. By entering the Contest, all entrants agree that the Boston Celtics, AT&T Broadband, and the NBA and NBA Properties, Inc. maintain the right to decide all matters and disputes arising from the Contest and their determination of the winners will be final and binding. No transfer, assignment, cash redemption or substitution of the prize is permitted, except by Sponsors due to prize availability and then with a prize of equal or greater value. By accepting the prize, each Winner agrees that all Sponsors, their affiliates and agents, will have no liability and will be held harmless by Winner for any liability, loss, injury, or damage to property or to person, including death, due in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by reason of the acceptance, participation in, use or misuse of the prizes or participation in the contest, even if caused or contributed to by the negligence of any Sponsor. Winners agree to allow use of their names and/or likeness by the Boston Celtics, AT&T Broadband, and the NBA and NBA Properties, Inc., without compensation, for promotional purposes. 7. Identification of Winners. For a complete list of Winners, or for a copy of the Contest Rules, write to: Boston Celtics, Attn: "All Access Promotion" 151 Merrimac Street, Boston, MA 02114. 8. Void Where Prohibited by Law. The Contest is void where prohibited or restricted by law. 9. Sponsors. The Boston Celtics and AT&T Broadband.

COMMENTARY



The Birthplace of "Uncle Sam"

Samuel Wilson

EDITORIAL

Center businesses need more parking

Arlington businesses have been the beneficiaries of lower rental rates, a great location, and a thriving residential housing base. Those issues combined have helped make a vibrant Center business district.

Though business leaders and shoppers complain about the lack of parking, new businesses keep moving to the Center. However, a Center business warned last week that the lack of parking might force them out of town.

As one of the town's largest employers, Simpson, Gumpertz, and Heger Inc., located at 297 Broadway, is looking to increase from 125 to 200 employees. Their issue is not with the possible addition.

The firm's representatives and town officials are more concerned about finding parking spaces for those 75 additional employees. The Russell Common parking lot is already filled to capacity. At last week's Redevelopment Board meeting, Simpson, Gumpertz, and Heger representatives asked if the town would be willing to build a parking deck at the Mystic/Chestnut lot.

The idea has been discussed before, but in a much larger scale. In the 1970s, the MBTA talked about building a four-story garage with a proposed Red Line extension. The town nixed that idea. Twenty years earlier, the town looked at a parking garage at Russell Common as a way to woo businesses to the downtown.

Instead, the town built a parking lot and the large anchor stores town officials dreamed about never came.

Any talk of additional parking on such a visible site makes a certain segment of the population run for their bottle of Maalox. However, the preliminary discussions last week showed the dire need for more parking in the Center.

Planning and Community Development Director Alan McClennen said one possibility is a deck at the high end of the parking lot. The town could excavate that area and have two layers of parking.

That sounds like an idea that could solve the problem, while not creating a gigantic eyesore in the middle of town.

Other communities have tried other options, such as a shuttle to the Center and greater reliance on walking, bicycling, and public transportation. In a perfect world that could work in Arlington, but it's going to take a long time to change the car-oriented society. Without adding parking spaces in the Center though, the businesses the town must save will be gone.

The situation is ripe for a partnership between the town and Center businesses. The town needs the businesses in the Center and the businesses need the parking. The two groups can surely devise a way to save the Center.

With the recent downturn in the economy, Center businesses might need all the help they can get. Arlington's business leaders are crying for help; it's time the town and businesses develop a partnership before the Center becomes full of empty storefronts.

The situation is ripe for a partnership between the town and Center businesses. The town needs the businesses in the Center and the businesses need the parking. The two groups can surely devise a way to save the Center.



DAVE GRANLUND © 2001 METROWEST DAILY NEWS

Town census is more than a headcount

It's midwinter and the Annual Town Census forms are about to be mailed. Each January, Massachusetts city and town clerks are required to survey every household and to update their records of municipal residents.

In Arlington, this annual census mailing is more than just a headcount. It is also used as an opportunity to bring residents up to date regarding the Town's Vision 2020 planning partnership and to solicit feedback regarding challenges facing the Arlington community.

For 10 years, Arlington Vision 2020 task groups, made up of volunteer townspeople, town officials, and town employees have worked collaboratively to focus problem-solving attention on issues facing our community. The

Vision 2020 census insert serves to as an annual renewal of those efforts.

This year's Vision 2020 insert runs six pages, includes the results from last year's surveys and again asks you to share your opinions. Last winter, 2,500 surveys were returned and half of the responding households identified parks/open space and affordable housing as the most important issues facing Arlington.

In order to better understand why these issues ranked number one and two respectively, this year's survey includes more detailed questionnaires on each of these topics. Given the complexity of the issues related to open space and affordable housing and the potential costs associated with any proposals to address the issues, the surveys also pose tough choices regarding funding for any initiatives proposed.

The flier also includes details of the responses received to the 2000 Reservoir Sur-

vey and information on the newly-formed Sustainable Arlington and Climate Wise task force. Finally, there is a fresh list of issues to ponder along with an invitation to join one or more of the Vision 2020 projects in 2001.

Watch for the census mailing from the office of the Arlington town clerk. When it arrives, please check it for accuracy, make any necessary changes, and return it promptly.

Take a good look at the Vision 2020 insert too. It's packed with information, briefly outlines the work of the Vision 2020 task groups, and poses questions to think about and to discuss with other members of your household. This year's surveys are a great opportunity to express your opinions and to contribute to the town's planning efforts in the year to come.

In Arlington in January, while you're being counted... your opinions count too!

Ralph Elwell co-chairs the Vision 2020 Communication Task Group.

Guest Commentary

RALPH EWELL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Civic pride more than money

I must applaud your publishing Mr. Koenig's letter ["Walking is treacherous"] last week. However, accurate he may have been in summarizing the history of the town no longer providing public safety measures in the form of snow removal from sidewalks, or the poor response by property and/or business owners from performing the same (nor them being fined for not adhering to the town bylaw to perform snow removal), the fact is that the public's safety remains unmitigated.

In the 20 years that I have lived in Arlington, various letters on this subject appear annually. And it seems that public safety continues to take a back seat. Whether it be in the business districts, or within proximity to schools, within neighborhoods, bus stops, mail boxes, fire hydrants and/or fire pull boxes, the fact remains that many property owners fail to meet their civic obligation in performing snow removal on community conveniences — sidewalks.

I read about increased costs of insurance and increased costs of salaries for public employees, but we don't read about the increased costs of medical expenses for those injured by falling on ice or the cost for lawsuits related to such falls. The near misses of automobile/truck versus pedestrians/children increases with the use of public ways since the sidewalks are not cleared from each snow storm. The DPW's snow removal efforts are hampered by persons leaving their cars on streets or persons clearing their driveways out into the street. As snow banks become ice banks, the problem remains until it thaws.

Near our schools, the streets have become more congested since the walkers cannot safely walk to school. And near the schools, after being dropped off, children bundled up do not have clear vision to see above or around the mega snow banks at street corners, or result to walking on the street since there is no safe path to traverse to school. Why can't something as simple as snow removal prevent costly injuries or even untimely deaths simply because people cannot be bothered. Yes, we will be appalled after a young one, or anyone for that matter, is struck down. But how preventable can this be? Will anyone approach the property owner or business as the fault for such a fall or death — likely not since the bylaw is not enforced.

I find myself going to other towns to find

safe passage to stores and restaurants. I want to use the services of town businesses, but I care about my safety and the safety of my family. I am sorry Mr./Ms. Business Owner that I may be a part of your declining business, but if you care about your business, then care about your customers and your community.

I am sorry that I may not be as warm in my greetings to my neighbors or those in my community when I walk in the street by their house since the sidewalk is not cleared. People pay \$35-\$50 per grass cutting session for their lawns, and pay similar money or more for others to apply anti-weed and fertilizer products, but they don't care about snow removal from their walks, which by the way, would make your house or business look better.

I guess my understanding of the concept of community has altered as I have aged. The civic concepts of community, pride, neighbor, and neighborhood are something that has made way for "modern day living" whatever that may be.

I am struggling to show my kids that civic pride doesn't have to have money attached to its meaning. It is interesting to observe though, that those parents who really do care about their kids are the ones most likely who get involved behind the scenes at school and recreation programs, and are also most likely to have their sidewalks cleared, even with their busy schedule.

Alas, I am burning off steam that might be better put to use outside chipping ice.

G.B. Heath

Shops elsewhere

Local retailers often complain that shoppers choose the mall or local "big box" stores over them.

But too many of these retailers won't even take the time to throw salt or sand on their sidewalks — let alone shovel.

I know, I know — they only "rent" their spaces.

But while they're waiting for the landlord (or, more likely, spring) to make their sidewalks passable and safe, I'll take my business elsewhere.

Patrice Robertie

Restoration needed

It has been over a year since a major violation of public land took place along the Minute-man Bikeway near the town skating rink. At

that time, a private abutting landowner removed all the trees from along more than a 100-foot stretch of this public resource and excavated a parking lot into the bikeway embankment. This has created a rather unpleasant stretch along a very public section of the bikeway. It also sets a bad example for other abutters of public land who might be tempted to encroach on public space for private use.

I understand that the town has taken this landowner to court. But a year later the land still remains in its degraded state. I think that the only appropriate solution, to preserve the town's public open space and to avoid setting a bad precedent, is to require full restoration of this land to its previous state with a safe, graded slope replanted with healthy trees and shrubs. Anything else would be a disservice to the citizens of Arlington and to all users of the bikeway.

David White

Thank you

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the volunteers and donors who have contributed their time, talents and resources over the past year to help the American Lung Association of Middlesex County fight lung disease.

As the American Lung Association of Middlesex County enters the new millennium, there are many challenges. There are reports of increases in Tuberculosis, teenage tobacco use, and pediatric asthma in some of our communities. Through the support and participation of our donors, volunteer leadership and quality staff, the American Lung Association of Middlesex County will strive to meet these challenges through school and community programs and professional services.

Our special event fundraising efforts will also allow us to continue our commitment to asthma and other lung disease research. To all of you who have supported the American Lung Association of Middlesex County, I again express my heartfelt appreciation. I strongly believe in the mission of the American Lung Association, to prevent lung disease and promote lung health, and with your continued support, we will succeed.

Ann Logan, R.N.

President

Board of Directors

American Lung Association of Middlesex County

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